

Japanese. Suddenly, a baby started crying within the cave and the entrance was discovered. The Marines yelled into the cave, and Elias immediately came out with his hands up and said in English, I surrender. If he had not responded as he did, the Marines were ready to toss grenades into the cave rather than risk Japanese soldiers were hiding there.

Because he spoke English, the Marines asked if he was Elias Sablan. They had been on the look-out for him because they were told Elias was one of only two Chamorros who knew English and could help translate for the U.S. military forces. Everyone in the cave was escorted down the hill to the camp where other survivors had been gathered and were being fed, clothed, and treated for injuries.

When the battles in the Marianas had ended, the American Military Government wanted to put the islanders on the road to independence and self-government. In December 1944, they held the first election for a Head Chief, the forerunner of today's Mayor. Barely five months into office, however, that first elected official passed away.

The military then appointed Elias to be interim Head Chief, until a new election could be held. Elias was working as the leader of the police force and continued in that position until being elected in his own right at head chief/mayor on July 4, 1945. Women voted in that July election, although they had not been able to vote the previous December.

Elias was an excellent representative of his constituents. He embodied Saipan's history and culture, because by blood he was both Chamorro and Carolinian, the two local communities of the island. He spoke those two languages, as well as the languages of all the foreign powers that had ruled and were now ruling Saipan: Spanish, German, Japanese, and English. Bringing this background and linguistic ability to his work as Mayor, Elias could understand and be understood by everyone on Saipan.

In coordination with the U.S. military the new Mayor went about the business of bringing life on the island back to normalcy. He appointed a building supervisor, a sanitation commissioner, an Educational Officer, and a replacement Police Chief. The infrastructure for the new island government was now started.

Every person living in the camps set up after the battle of Saipan was identified and accounted for. Repairs were made to the classrooms of the Chalan Kanoa school, so children could have a place to study. And working with the U.S. military, Elias helped interested families return to work farming.

In 1947, the United Nations created the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United States was charged with governing the TTPI and with helping its people transition from being colonies to being sovereign nations. As Mayor, Elias worked with the TTPI administration. He even traveled to New York City in 1955, along with delegates from the other Micronesian islands in the Trust Territory to report on the status of that transition.

Elias wanted to model self-government in the islands after American democracy, which he had read about in the textbooks his father gave him. There had been no political parties, when he was first elected, and no specific candidates. Each voter simply wrote in the name of his or her choice on a printed ballot. So, to foster competitive elections after the

American practice, Elias, together with other community leaders, started the islands' first political party: the Territorial Party.

Elias served for three consecutive terms (twelve years) as the Mayor of Saipan, from 1945 through 1956. Even after stepping down as Mayor, though, he continued serving the people in various other government and civic positions until his death on October 29, 1968.

Sadly, his passing came too soon for him to witness the realization of his vision of a happy and prosperous life for his people as members of the American political family. Saipan and the other Northern Mariana Islands became a Commonwealth of the United States in 1978.

#### HONORING JJ GERTLER FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the achievements of Jeremiah "JJ" Gertler, Specialist in Military Aviation, Congressional Research Service, on the occasion of his retirement from the Service on February 28, 2022.

JJ Gertler served Congress with distinction for more than 22 years at the Library of Congress as a Specialist in Military Aviation for the Congressional Research Service, as a professional staff member of the House Armed Services Committee, and as a Defense Legislative Assistant for then-Senator Chuck Robb of Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, a master's degree in international security policy from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as well as graduating with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

JJ is recognized throughout Congress, the military Services, the defense community, and the military aviation community as an expert in U.S. military aviation programs, capabilities, and strategy. He authored numerous reports and products pertaining to important military aircraft programs across the military services, ranging from the F-35 fighter to the Marine Corps Osprey to privatized adversary air combat training. He also is an expert in the strategic use of military aviation, writing extensively on no-fly zones, possible air strikes in numerous conflicts, and on the strategic implications of the Air Force's long-term budget priorities. He excelled at consultative work for Members of Congress and staffers, developing and maintaining long-term relationships with offices and committees of jurisdiction.

JJ also exercised true leadership at CRS. He was chosen, based on his outstanding skills as an analyst and public speaker, to moderate numerous high-profile panels organized by the Service, most notably the plenary session for the 2019 New Members' Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia. His skills at presentation are well noted by both members and peers, and a House Armed Services subcommittee chairman once told him, "I have been here 10 years, and I have never heard a better presentation." He created the first podcast for CRS aimed at Congressional clients, served a year in a rotation as a Senior

Advisor to the Director of CRS, and piloted multiple new written CRS products during his tenure.

During his tenure as a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee from 2000 through 2004, Mr. Gertler oversaw the defense procurement and missile defense budgets, including all classified programs, during the Fiscal Year 2000 through 2005 budgets. Prior to serving on the committee, he was a defense legislative assistant from 1990 to 1995 for Senator Robb who was simultaneously serving on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and Intelligence committees.

JJ Gertler, in addition to his tremendous work and professionalism, is notable for his love of automobiles and his sense of humor. While working on Senator Robb's staff, JJ's sports car team finished third in the country. He plans to retire to the Maryland shore and continue those pursuits. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and all those who JJ has worked with during his 22 years on Capitol Hill, we thank him for his public service and wish him well.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FRANCIS VINCENT

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Francis Vincent.

[From the Delaware Genealogical Society, May 2021]

FRANCIS VINCENT: EDITOR, PUBLIC SERVANT  
(By Mary Anne Vincent)

March 17, 2022 will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Delaware's most illustrious citizens, Francis Vincent.

Francis Vincent was only 23 when he co-founded the Blue Hen's Chicken, a newspaper which would greatly influence events in Delaware and Maryland within the next few years. Local papers in his day borrowed heavily from large city paper but they printed little news about either Wilmington or Delaware. Vincent, who knew the state from end to end, devoted most of his paper to state and local news. Within three months his paper had the largest circulation in the state.

Vincent used the Blue Hen's Chicken to advocate for major changes in his home state. He called for proportional representation in the state legislature, ratification of more important laws by popular ballot, and election of state officers instead of their appointment by the governor.

Politicians, especially Whigs who controlled the state government, were sharply opposed to such changes. Vincent persistently called for a state convention to change the state constitution. Other newspapers followed his lead by addressing the same issue. In 1846, the Whigs were turned out of office.

In 1848, Vincent published an article on the "Moral Effects of Hanging". Shortly thereafter, the state legislature abolished public hangings. He also called for abolishing public whipping of women. Known to his contemporaries as a courteous, gentle man, this treatment of women was abhorrent to him.

Vincent showed his concern for other segments of society by calling for a 10-hour

work day (an act of courage in those days), the exemption of a portion of a citizen's goods from forced seizure for debt, the establishment of life-saving service and coastal patrol on the Delaware River, and free universal education. All of these proposals were adopted. Indeed, the school system of Wilmington at the time of his death in 1884 was substantially what he proposed in 1850.

After the Civil War, Vincent gained fame for his "Essay Recommending the Union of Great Britain and her Colonies and the United States and the Final Union of the World into One Great Nation". He explored the topic further in a subsequent essay addressed to the International and Permanent League of Peace in December 1869. His plan, which ante-dated Wilson's League of Nations by almost five decades, never came to fruition.

#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MIKE BUCKLES

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Mike Buckles upon his retirement from the Daniel Boone Community Action Agency, where he has served as Executive Director for nearly 25 years.

Mike has dedicated his career to assisting individuals and families most-in-need. He turned an agency facing financial hardships into a thriving, successful resource to combat poverty. Mike is a visionary leader, always working to expand services to help as many people as possible in Clay, Jackson and Lee counties. As Executive Director, he increased employment from 40 to 135 employees, added two certified Kentucky Career Centers and increased the budget to over \$16 million.

He worked diligently to lift the Daniel Boone CAA out of debt and increased programs for transportation, weatherization, low-income energy assistance, workforce development, child care, housing and emergency services.

As a result of his achievements, Mike was selected to lead Community Action Kentucky as President for two terms. In 2015, he was inducted into the Transportation Hall of Fame and he received the "Jesse Amburgey Award of Excellence in Community Action" in 2019. In 2020, he was named a "SOAR Hero" by the non-profit SOAR organization—Shaping Our Appalachian Region. Under his leadership, Daniel Boone CAA has also earned many accolades, including the Statewide Transportation Award, Eastern Kentucky Section 531 Award, Vehicle Maintenance Award, Statewide Transportation Award, and the Weatherization Leadership Award, among others.

Thanks to Mike's lifetime of perseverance and due diligence, countless families in our rural region have received assistance when they needed it the most—getting a ride to the doctor's office, getting the training necessary for a new job, keeping warm in the winter, accessing childcare during work hours, and much more. Without a doubt, Mike Buckles has made a resounding difference in southeastern Kentucky and I appreciate his sincere friendship and partnership over the years. I wish Mike a happy and peaceful retirement with his wife Sharon and their beautiful family.

#### ORDER OF THE ARROW

#### HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow program.

The Order of the Arrow was founded on the highest ideals of the Boy Scouts of America as Scouting's national camping honor society. It recognizes Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Members of the Order of the Arrow are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round outdoor activities, and providing cheerful service to others.

Each spring, the eleven Order of the Arrow Lodges in Georgia and Alabama come together for an annual conclave. The 2022 Conclave will be hosted at Camp Benjamin Hawkins in Byron, Georgia on the weekend of April 1.

The weekend, steeped in tradition, will include fun, fellowship, and service. I extend my best wishes to the Scouts and Advisors participating in this Conclave, and I hope their experience will be memorable and enjoyable.

#### RECOGNIZING CARL PIERSON

#### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Carl Pierson, a husband, father, teacher, coach, City Council member, and resident of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Carl has served the City of Waconia for more than twenty years, enriching the lives of countless students and community members around him. He leads by example, and we are fortunate to have someone like Carl in the Sixth District who puts others first and demonstrates what "Selfless Service" truly means.

Carl is a staple in the Waconia Community, teaching high school government for the last two decades. In addition to educating future generations of Minnesotans in the classroom, he is cultivating the next generation of student-athletes as coach of the Waconia High School basketball, baseball, and football teams. If that weren't enough, Carl is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Association and author of the book "The Politics of Coaching," a must-read for coaches looking to navigate the politics of youth sports. As someone who coached youth hockey for many years, I've learned some valuable lessons in negotiation and diplomacy while working with the parents of my players, but Carl literally wrote the book on it.

In November 2020, Carl was elected to the Waconia City Council, representing Ward 2. This was not his first stint in public service, as Carl had previously served on the Waconia Park Board and the Carver County Sheriffs Citizen Advisory Council. Where Carl finds time to accomplish all these things and continue to be a loving husband to his wife and father to his two sons remains a mystery, however, Carl remains a leader and mentor for the residents and students in Waconia.

Earlier this year, Carl was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. While this news is never easy to receive, I have no doubt that he will approach this new challenge with the same optimism and determination he has shown time and time again on the basketball court and win this fight.

I cannot thank Carl enough for his leadership and dedication to the residents of Waconia. Our community, our district, and our state are in a better place because of his work and perseverance. I thank Carl, and may God Bless him and his wonderful family.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MARCUS BLAZE FOR WINNING THE DIVISION I WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school wrestler in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Marcus Blaze, a freshman at Perrysburg High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division I State Wrestling Title. Marcus overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the Division I State Wrestling Championship.

In pursuing the State Championship, Marcus Blaze defeated his opponent in the finals of the 113-pound classification. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the mat, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. Marcus led his team to rank second place overall in the championship. He has achieved an impressive season record bringing pride to his school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Marcus Blaze of Perrysburg High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF RETIRING LUXEMBURG-CASCO SUPERINTENDENT GLENN SCHLENDER

#### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of retiring Luxemburg-Casco Superintendent, Glenn Schlender.

During his 37-and-a-half year career in education, Mr. Schlender has held numerous leadership roles in our education system. He has undoubtedly made a lasting impact at each stop during his distinguished career. Mr. Schlender began his career in 1985 as a science teacher in the Green Bay School District, which was followed by taking the role of assistant principal at Green Bay Preble High School. He then joined the Pulaski School District as the principal at Pulaski High School for 7 years before moving to the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District and assuming the role of